

15 September 2008

## Chem-Bio News

**1. SOLDIERS MAY FACE TOXIC RISK:** *"The Indiana National Guard is trying to locate former soldiers who may have been exposed to a highly toxic chemical while serving in Basra, Iraq, in 2003 so that they can receive medical evaluations."*

**2. FIRM WINS \$65 MILLION CONTRACT FOR BOTULISM TREATMENTS:** *"Xoma Ltd., a Berkeley, Calif., pharmaceutical company, recently announced that it received a \$65 million multiyear federal contract to fund work on botulinum antitoxins, one of which it hopes to put through safety and efficacy tests starting in 2009."*

**3. AT UCF, GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS SHOW PROMISE AS VACCINE:** *"The University of Central Florida researcher is working on a new kind of vaccine grown inside plant cells, crushed into powder and swallowed as a capsule."*

**4. JIHADIS DISCUSS MEANS OF POISONING THE WATER SUPPLY OF DENMARK AND GREAT BRITAIN:** *"A major jihadi internet forum has posted a terrorist plot to use chemical and biological agents to contaminate water resources in Europe in general and Great Britain and Denmark in particular, the latter in retaliation for insulting the Prophet Muhammad through publication of the infamous "Muhammad cartoons."*

## Chem-Demil News

**1. DISPOSAL PLANT WORKER HAD BOTTLED AIR SUPPLY PROBLEM:** *"A Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) worker performing ventilation system pre-filters maintenance yesterday while wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) was suddenly unable to get air from his equipment."*

**2. BLAST CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE REDESIGN TO COST \$2 MILLION:** *"The redesign of a blast containment structure in the chemical weapons destruction plant being built at the Blue Grass Army Depot will cost an additional \$2 million, but will not delay the project."*

# CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### SOLDIERS MAY FACE TOXIC RISK

By Bruce Corbin  
Evansville Courier & Press  
September 13, 2008

"The Indiana National Guard is trying to locate former soldiers who may have been exposed to a highly toxic chemical while serving in Basra, Iraq, in 2003 so that they can receive

medical evaluations.

A total of 139 soldiers serving with the 1/152nd Infantry based out of Jasper, Ind., and Tell City, Ind., may have been exposed to sodium dichromate, a known carcinogen, while guarding an Iraqi facility — the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant — for about six months after the Iraq war started, a National Guard official said.

Maj. Gen. Martin Umbarger, adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, said the Guard has sought to contact all 139 soldiers in the unit as well as their larger battalion of 660 soldiers under the assumption they may have been exposed."

The full article can be found at: <http://m.courierpress.com/news/2008/sep/13/soldiersmay-face-toxic-risk/>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **FIRM WINS \$65 MILLION CONTRACT FOR BOTULISM TREATMENTS**

By Lisa Schnirring

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)  
September 11, 2008

"Xoma Ltd., a Berkeley, Calif., pharmaceutical company, recently announced that it received a \$65 million multiyear federal contract to fund work on botulinum antitoxins, one of which it hopes to put through safety and efficacy tests starting in 2009.

The contract is the third one that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has awarded Xoma to develop botulism antitoxins, the company said in a Sep 9 statement. In 2005 Xoma was among the first companies to receive a contract through Project BioShield, according to a previous report."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/botulism/news/sep1108botulism-br.html>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **AT UCF, GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS SHOW PROMISE AS VACCINE**

By Robyn Shelton

OrlandoSentinel.com

September 15, 2008

"Henry Daniell thinks there is a better way.

The University of Central Florida researcher is working on a new kind of vaccine grown inside plant cells, crushed into powder and swallowed as a capsule. He recently had success in animal tests of his vaccine for bubonic plague.

"What we have developed is a totally new platform; it's a revolutionary approach," said Daniell, who receives funding from the National Institutes of Health and others for his research."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/health/orl-vaccines1008sep10,0,1419005.story>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **JIHADIS DISCUSS MEANS OF POISONING THE WATER SUPPLY OF DENMARK AND GREAT BRITAIN**

By Abdul Hameed Bakier  
The Jamestown Foundation  
September 10, 2008

"A major jihadi internet forum has posted a terrorist plot to use chemical and biological agents to contaminate water resources in Europe in general and Great Britain and Denmark in particular, the latter in retaliation for insulting the Prophet Muhammad through publication of the infamous "Muhammad cartoons." The posting, entitled "Back Breaking Blow to Denmark, the U.K, and the European Union," discussed ways of poisoning water resources and reservoirs to cause mass killings (al-ekhlaas.net, August 16). Even though many forum participants consented to the plan and participated with ideas on the kind of chemical agents that might be used in such attacks, some forum members disagreed with the terror plan, arguing that mass killing has neither religious justification nor a fatwa (religious ruling) to authorize it. The anti-attack forum members appeared to have a strong case from a religious standpoint, leading to a protracted discussion lasting over a week."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2374403>

[Return to Top](#)

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **DISPOSAL PLANT WORKER HAD BOTTLED AIR SUPPLY PROBLEM**

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release  
September 10, 2008

"A Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) worker performing ventilation system pre-filters maintenance yesterday while wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) was suddenly unable to get air from his equipment. He quickly exited the work area, put on

a new mask, and removed some of his protective equipment with help from emergency backup personnel. That equipment was placed in the sealed bag as a precaution since the worker was performing tasks in an area of potential chemical agent contamination.

No chemical agent was detected by two different types of monitoring equipment in each of two vestibules through which the worker passed as he exited the work area to get air. When he re-entered the vestibule, additional monitoring revealed no agent present on him. However, trace amounts of chemical agent were later detected in the sealed bag of his used equipment. The worker was evaluated at the medical clinic and had no symptoms of agent exposure.

Because the worker stepped outside the vestibule momentarily, the UMCDF complied with its operating permit which requires reporting of potential agent release to the state. Army and plant officials are reviewing plant controls, procedures and training to prevent a similar event.

Army officials also notified off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore.; and Benton County, Wash.; plus officials in Oregon and Washington states; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality about the worker equipment contamination."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678834>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **BLAST CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE REDESIGN TO COST \$2 MILLION**

By Bill Robinson  
Richmond Register (KY)  
September 10, 2008

"The redesign of a blast containment structure in the chemical weapons destruction plant being built at the Blue Grass Army Depot will cost an additional \$2 million, but will not delay the project.

By changing the construction sequence for other elements of the project, no time will be lost, Mark Seely, project manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass told the Chemical Destruction Citizens Advisory Board on Tuesday."

"On-site super-critical water oxidation (SCWO) appears to be the most likely treatment for the corrosive hydrolysate that will result from chemical neutralization of the weapons, Flamm said. A decision may be announced as early as December."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local\\_story\\_254075728.html](http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local_story_254075728.html)

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